



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
*1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

February 12, 2004

Geoffrey Masci, Chair
Jefferson County Board of Health
615 Sheridan Street
Port Townsend WA 98368

Dear Chair Masci:

Thank you for your July 2003 letter regarding sewage releases from vessels, and for your request that the State Board of Health (SBOH) hold a public forum about whether existing practices and the current regulatory framework provide adequate public health protections. Last fall Don Sloma and I appreciated attending one of your Board of Health meetings and hearing in person your Board's priority concerns.

In response to your Board's concerns about sewage releases from vessels, the State Board of Health has scheduled a briefing from the Department of Ecology at its March 10, 2004 meeting in Tacoma on the draft memorandum of understanding between the state of Washington, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, the US Coast Guard (to be confirmed), the Port of Seattle, and the North West CruiseShip Association.

During the meeting the SBOH has also scheduled updates on other issues we heard were of interest to your Board: the Onsite Wastewater Rule Development Committee and health disparities and health workforce diversity. A draft agenda, subject to change, is attached. SBOH staff members will e-mail a draft agenda two weeks before and one week before the meeting—if you do not receive our agendas via e-mail please contact Board staff at 360-236-4110.

If you would like to provide additional information, other community perspectives, or other suggestions for statewide health priorities, please feel free to call or write. We are open to hearing from you about emerging issues at any time. If you have any further questions or requests, please call the SBOH office. Members of our staff will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Carl Osaki, Member
Washington State Board of Health

Cc: Jefferson County Board of Health Members
Jean Baldwin, Jefferson County Health and Social Services Department
Larry Fay, Jefferson County Health and Social Services Department
Clallam County Board of Health Members

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